CITY OF LONG BEACH DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES JANUARY 17, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:00 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center Library. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President

Drew Satariano, Vice President

Simon George Albert Guerra Bob Livingstone Sarah Sangmeister Brett Waterfield

Absent: none

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development Bureau

Chrissy Marshall, Manager, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Tom Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau J.C. Squires, Manager, Business Operations Bureau

Lt. Joe Stilinovich, Park Rangers

William Greco, Supervising Park Ranger Anna Mendiola, Park Development Officer Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Art Cox, Superintendent, Street Maintenance Division, Public Works

Diane Wiley, Partners of Parks

Steve Patton, Melendez

Commander Gary Morrison, Police Department

Mike Duree, Chairman of the Livingston Park Playground Committee

Mark Christoffels, City Engineer

Melanie Smith, Melendrez and Associates, Architect

II. INTRODUCTIONS

A. PARTNERS OF PARKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – DIANE WILEY

Mr. J.C. Squires introduced Diane Wiley, the new Executive Director of Partners of Parks.

Ms. Wiley stated that she is excited to partner with the Department on building an outstanding organization and looks forward to working with the Board.

Ms. Chrissy Marshall stated that she had another announcement to make. She explained the background of having a Police Lieutenant in charge of the Park Rangers. She then said that Lt. Joe Stilinovich was promoted to Commander. She recognized him for his exemplary service and presented him with a plaque.

President Saltzgaver thanked Lt. Stilinovich for his service and said that he helped put a handle on the Park Rangers' training. President Saltzgaver presented Lt. Stilinovich with a plaque.

Lt. Stilinovich thanked the Department, the employees, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. He stated that another Police Lieutenant would be placed in the position to replace him. He then introduced his supervisor, Commander Gary Morrison, and thanked him for attending.

Mr. Hester recognized and thanked Lt. Stilinovich for his service and mentioned that putting a Police Lieutenant over the Park Rangers was a change in direction. He stated that Chief Batts has an understanding of how important it was to have a Police Lieutenant in charge of the Rangers.

President Saltzgaver stated that item nine would be taken next.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. RECOMMENDATION REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS AND MATCHING FUNDS FOR LIVINGSTON DRIVE PARK

Mr. Eschen explained the project. He stated that Livingston Park is the oldest playground in the city and was built with a matching fund program. He said that Anna Mendiola designed the new playground.

Ms. Mendiola described the park plan, which has an older kids area, a trike path, and a smaller kids area. She designed the playground around the existing trees.

Mr. Mike Duree, introduced himself as a third District resident and the Chair of the Committee raising funds. He stated that the fundraising started about six months ago and they are at about \$130,000, with a goal of \$150,000, which is remarkable. He said that with the matching program they would be able to build the playground. He urged the Parks and Recreation Commission's support for the renovation of this park. He said that Dennis Eschen and Anna Mendiola attended numerous meetings and spent a lot of time and energy supporting this project and he thanked them and Phil Hester.

It was moved by Commissioner Sangmeister and seconded by Commissioner Livingstone to recommend to the City Council and City Manager that:

- 1. <u>The expansion of Livingston Drive Playground is an appropriate improvement to Livingston Drive Park; and,</u>
- 2. Up to \$150,000 in Matching Funds be reserved for use in these improvements.

The motion carried unanimously with President Saltzgaver abstaining.

Commissioner Livingstone stated that the way this was done was exemplary, the way the community was involved and how they worked with staff. In the future, he would hope that matching funds would be spent in areas that are a little less affluent and where there is more of a need for playgrounds.

Mr. Hester stated that the matching funds program was eliminated a few years ago due to budget constraints. The matching funds for this project were available from Park Impact Fees that were available. He stated that Commissioner Livingstone was correct in that the Department should be looking across the full city, which is what the Department has done in the past. This was just an opportunity to be able to use these funds. If the community comes forward with projects, it is the Department's challenge to find the funding.

Mr. Eschen stated that Park Impact Fees are development fees that are collected from people who build housing and are specifically required to be used to build new facilities; they cannot be used for programs.

Mr. Duree stated that a final fundraising event would be held on January 31, at Legends and that President Saltzgaver would circulate the flyer.

President Saltzgaver stated that they would go back to the regular order on the agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 20, 2007

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the December 20, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#08-0101

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

President Saltzgaver stated that there are no Personal Services/Instruction Agreements this month.

#08-0102

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE NAMING OF THE PONY-COLT FIELD IN HEARTWELL PARK AS THE "AL WEINER BALLPARK"

Mr. Hester stated that a letter was received from the organization, which will be celebrating their 50th anniversary. Mr. Weiner is still alive and has been involved with this league for many, many years. He said that he spoke with the Council office and they are in support of this.

It was moved by Vice President Satariano and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to recommend to the City Council that Al Weiner Ballpark is an appropriate name for the Pony-Colt field at Heartwell Park. The motion carried unanimously.

President Saltzgaver suggested that the league invite one of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners to attend the ceremony.

Mr. Hester responded that he has suggested this to the league.

#08-0103

APPROVE THE REDESIGNED CLASS BROCHURE AND MAILING SCHEDULE

Mr. Squires stated that a letter was included in the packet briefly describing the new approach the Department has taken. The theme is to try to reduce the overall budget on the Department and improve the effectiveness of the marketing dollars and try to move to an e-commerce approach. This would allow the Department to target money to a more direct marketing approach.

Ms. Grobaty stated this was a big departure of what they have been doing for over 20 years. She said that the class schedule went out to 66,000 residents. These were residents who had registered for a class in the past. They were able to print out 35,000 fewer copies of the schedule. The class schedule is available on all libraries and community centers. They have had about 35 people call and ask to be added to the mailing list. They will be able to take some of the saved money and reallocate it to have commercials on Charter Cable television and on the Long Beach Transit buses. Staff will also be sending out a recreation mailer twice a year to all the residents in Long Beach to promote some of the free and low cost family programs at the community centers and parks. They are also working on information for the City's enotify system, where people can opt-in and receive informational e-mails on City programs and news. This document is also available on the website for viewing and to download. They are also working on videotaping the classes for viewing on the website.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Sangmeister to approve the new marketing approach and mailing schedule of the redesigned class brochure. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Waterfield asked when staff would have comparison numbers.

Mr. Squires responded that he should have comparable numbers in late February or early spring.

Commissioner Guerra mentioned that a poster of the events for residents to post on their refrigerator is appealing. It might also be a good idea to send flyers to the Neighborhood Resource Center and perhaps staff members could come out to their neighborhood association meetings to explain the new programs.

President Saltzgaver suggested that perhaps a Commissioner could attend one of the neighborhood association meetings.

V. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda.

1) 2008 Meeting Locations.

President Saltzgaver stated that enclosed is a list of the Commission meeting locations for 2008.

President said that they also discussed the Commission Retreat on January 18. The time is extended to 4:30 p.m. His meeting with the Mayor was rescheduled to this afternoon at 3:00 p.m., and he would fill everyone in at the Retreat.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met this morning and the schedule for the budget prep is out. He said he would like the Committee to meet again next month to go over priorities.

Mr. Squires discussed the budget calendar.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE Commissioner George, Chair

Commissioner George stated that the Committee did not meet this month. He asked Lt. Stilinovich to brief the Commissioners on the items.

Lt. Stilinovich stated that there is a Park Ranger Association of California that represents all park rangers and uniformed personnel inside parks. They push forward legislation to preserve our resources and set a standard for park rangers. Long Beach Park Ranger Dave Sterling was elected as the Region 4 Representative, which represents seven counties in Southern California.

Lt. Stilinovich mentioned that he would give a tour of the Park Ranger Station to the Commissioners after the meeting. He also thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for the opportunity to help fight crime through recreation, which helped him grow.

D. PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Committee did not meet this month.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE Vice President Satariano, Chair

Vice President Satariano stated that the Committee met today and that two reports were included in the packet.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE Commissioner Tong Sangmeister, Chair

Commissioner Sangmeister stated that the Committee did not meet this month.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone stated that the Committee did not meet this month.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – DECEMBER 2007

President Saltzgaver asked for any questions on the monthly report. There were none.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Vice President Satariano to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for December 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. <u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>

Mr. Hester stated that he received correspondence from the City Attorney stating that the City Council has oversight over the tidelands area and that they cannot delegate that authority.

VIII. <u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u>

A. URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN

Mr. Christoffels stated that they are in the process of compiling goals and policies and the next phase is the creation of a master plan.

Ms. Smith went over the seven goals that they put together.

President Saltzgaver confirmed that looking for appropriate funding is in the next phase.

Vice President Satariano stated that they had a problem with the first presentation because it followed a heavy budget process and cuts. He asked who this whole process was started.

Mr. Christoffels stated that Los Angeles has gone through with a million tree program. The City of Long Beach is going through a citywide sidewalk repair program. There is a lot of talk about greening. City Council was overwhelmed by the public that the city needs to have a plan for greening and for trees and directed Public Works to come up with an Urban Forest Master Plan.

Vice President Satariano said that everyone would like more trees. The issue is how you get there and how you maintain those trees. He said he is not confident that we have the money to pull it off or the money to maintain the trees we have.

President Saltzgaver pointed out to goal 7.2, which states that one department is to take responsibility for all trees on public land, which would be Public Works.

Mr. Shippey responded that Public Works is the most logical department to take care of all the trees and to update the tree inventory is important. It also makes sense that the landscaping portion is under the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. The Department is very supportive of this plan. He said that he also has a staff member who participates in the Tree Committee.

Mr. Christoffels stated that when the Master Plan is in place, they could go after grants and funding.

Commissioner Sangmeister stated that goal 5.5 needs to be modified to include schools and colleges as partners to be a part of this plan.

Commissioner Waterfield stated that the economics piece should be under goal number 5. Citizens need an education that when trees are planted, they need to be maintained also.

Mr. Christoffels stated that once he gets the Commission's input and input from the Tree Committee, they would be taking it to the City Council for approval.

President Saltzgaver stated that this process has allowed more dialog and requested that more maintenance and the schools be included in the plan.

X. **COMMENTS**

A. AUDIENCE

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

B. STAFF

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the staff.

Mr. Hester stated that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade would take place on Saturday. The parade would begin at 10:30 a.m., and there would be events all day in the park. There have been events all week, including the rededication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. statue.

Mr. Hester said that as a result of the discussion at the City Council meeting, he wanted to explain information about the senior meal program. He said that it is a good program and it feeds about 260 residents a week. The organization did come to the Department about a year ago and ask for some assistance with funds, because Long Beach is the only city that does not contribute with funding. He said that the request was submitted to the City Manager's office as a budget discussion item. The Mayor let the organization know that the City had no money available to contribute. Mr. Hester said that the organization is not pulling the program from Long Beach. Community Development has an opportunity to pledge about \$15,000 for the current year from Community Development Block Grant funds. The Health Department also has opportunities for senior services grants in fiscal year 2009, so the Department is working with them.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Guerra asked if the Department does a background check before we do a park naming?

Mr. Hester responded that staff does check into the recommendations and that park namings are recommended usually after a person dies.

Commissioner Livingstone stated that he would be in Hawaii next month.

Vice President Satariano stated that the Sea Festival report was included in the packet. The economic impact report would be coming out in the next couple of

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weeks. The Sea Festival is looking to take events inland and taking land-locked residents to the ocean.

President Saltzgaver stated that he was looking forward to a good discussion at the Commission Retreat.

X. <u>NEXT MEETING</u>

President Saltzgaver stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at MacArthur Park/Homeland Cultural Center, in the Community Center, 1321 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine